

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This meeting was facilitated both in-person and via an online Zoom format.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

2:30 p.m.

BMU 205

MEMBERS PRESENT – Jade Tsao, Krystal Alvarez, Josh Rubinoff, Autumn Alaniz-Wiggins, Chloe Renner, Mujtaba Azam (Joined Zoom 2:33 p.m.), Gianna Echavez-LaRocca (Zoom), Allison Wagner (Zoom), Jay Friedman (Zoom), Kaylee McAllister-Knutson

MEMBERS ABSENT – None

OTHERS PRESENT – Kendra Wright, Lexi Extein (recorder), Hugh Hammond, Shar Krater (Zoom), Oscar Cisneros-Magana, Curtis Sicheneder, Imani Martin, Itzel Saucedo Dominguez, Chris Navarrete

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The Chair, Tsao, called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
- II. **MECHOOPDA LAND RECOGNITION** – The meeting started with the reading of the Mechoopda Land Recognition Statement.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Approval of the 3/22/23 regular meeting agenda. **Motion to approve the 3/22/2023 regular meeting agenda, as presented (Alvarez/Alaniz-Wiggins) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes of the 3/8/23 regular meeting. **Motion to approve the minutes of the 3/8/23 regular meeting, as presented (Alvarez/Renner) 6-0-0 MSC.**
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** – None
- VI. **PUBLIC OPINION** – Limited to items on the agenda, three minutes per speaker, five minutes for entire topic – None
- VII. **STUDENT ACADEMIC SENATE (SAS) REPORT** – Action Items forwarded to the Government Affairs Committee from the Senate stand approved unless overturned by a 2/3 + 1 Committee action.
 - A. Student Academic Senate (SAS) Committee – Wagner said they had their SAS meeting before break and approved last meeting's minutes and agenda.
 1. SAS Actions: SAS Actions of 2/27/23
 - a. Approved the 2/27/23 agenda
 - b. Approved the minutes of the regular meeting of 2/13/23

VIII. BUSINESS

A. Consent Agenda

All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and are enacted by one motion without discussion. A member of the committee who desires a separate discussion of any item may pull that item from the Consent Agenda.

Confirmation of revisions to Associated Students Corporate Codes, effective beginning the 2023-24 elected representative term:

- Duties for Commissioner of Sustainability Affairs.
- Duties for Director of Academic Affairs.
- Duties for Executive Vice President.
- Duties for College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Senator.
- Duties for College of Business Senator.
- Duties for College of Natural Sciences Senator.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: **Action Requested: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. (Alvarez/Renner) 6-0-0 MSC.**

- B. Information Item: Budget Preview. Slaughter shared a Power Point regarding the Activity Fee Fund. He explained he is giving a budget preview of what is coming up and is sharing as the Government Affairs Committee works with activity fee fund. Recent developments that Wright and him had discussed earlier that day will change these numbers slightly, but if they change it's for the better. The Associated Students did not go into the reserves that they were approved to use if necessary last year. Due to savings and changes, the \$552,135 stayed untouched. The following are the reasons how that was achieved. There was an \$80,123 increase in net income due to slightly higher enrollment than originally budgeted for paired with return on investment becoming healthy. \$34,700 reduction in contract programs. These programs include: Cross-Cultural Leadership Center, Student Transition and Retention Center, Gender and Sexuality Equity Coalition, Community Legal Information Clinic, KCSC Radio, and B-Line. Once the decision to go into reserves was made, the decision to reduce contract program allocations by 20% was made. There was a \$102,499 reduction in funds paid to corporate services, which includes: financial services, human resources, administration, and IT. These were due to salary savings, position savings, and some restructuring. \$49,859 reduction in the activity fee administration as they sorted out the Director of Government Affairs, and Director of AS programs. After the restructure and hires they got money back. \$35,745 reduction in Government Affairs due to restructure and a few months without Extein's position. \$19,734 reduction in Annual Program Allocations due to a reinstatement of Revenue Sharing. The estimated Revenue Sharing was estimated to be higher than actual pledges. \$209,142 reduction in CDL which is our campus programs. This is the last year they will receive the CCAMPIS grant, as it is a 5 year grant. There were large savings due to that grant. In the future that grant may no longer be available but for this year it was impactful. \$19,478 reduction in community programs, specifically Community Action Volunteer and Education estimate was higher than they imagined. There's been quite a bit of savings. This has all led to not needing to use \$500,000 reserves. Request to use \$212,302 of \$5,226,879 estimated reserves to balance budget. Budgeted estimated enrollment of 12,000 students and fee of \$162. The fee increased by \$10 because of the CPI. The impacted enrollment hits us hard. They readopted First Year Leadership Opportunity program, which is supported by the Activity Fee and supported by Government Affairs. It moved to the student union, and will now be moving back to Government Affairs as the plan is to build and extend. It's approximately \$52,000 to re-adopt the program. This is the last year of increasing the senator's scholarships. Child Development Lab's million dollar grant expired. We are going to re-apply but we will see. As of now the Child Development Lab's budget is not offset by the CCAMPIS. They still have CCTR and their state and federal grant but no longer have the CCAMPIS unique grant. Mitigating measures means a suggested 25% reduction in contract program allocation, this matches the enrollment decreasing 25% since the original partnership. This was made when we were at 17,000 enrollment. Allocation will reduce to match. 25% reduction to SOEAF, SJE and traditional programming. In the past 5 years we have never used the entirety of their budgets. 25% is safe number to use when budgeting. April 5th the budget information will come to the Government Affairs Committee. It will be approved by the Government Affairs Committee at April 19th meeting and then goes to Board of Directors on April 26th for budget approval. Hoping to be passed by May 5th. Good news is our reserves and balance are full. The fee increases will help some despite low enrollment. Reserves will be needed to balance the budget next year. Rubinoff asked about why the \$500,000 has just been sitting, and is curious if they can give back this money to students. Slaughter explained that the reserves keep there from being a fee increase by buying us time. He said the officer's predecessors need to be as safe as possible by keeping reserves healthy. Hopefully in 3 to 4 years we will have enrollment numbers coming back. He encourages the officers to attend Choose Chico to promote the university. We want reserves to stay strong. Alaniz-Wiggins said that she believes lowering the amount to contract programs below 20% is detrimental to their success. She claimed she can't imagine them doing well with cuts because they're underserved as-is. Slaughter explains that if there is a problem that comes up during the year, the Government Affairs Committee can always vote to allocate more funds if necessary. Slaughter said if enrollment increased it will help, but that it can also get lower. How the reduction hits the programs needs to be analyzed as we go. Alaniz-Wiggins asked if the contract programs have gotten close to using all their budget. Slaughter explained that they have been giving the Student Transition and Retention Center and Cross-Cultural Leadership Center funds that supports student staff. Slaughter claims when Peterson was here, there were years they didn't monitor how they used their entire budgets, but we will and asking for their accountability in the future. Wright stated that she will be looking to identify all our contract programs and become the point of contact. Wright said she would like the contract program to report back what they spent the money on. She explained that she would like to see what they are spending money on and there will be a form eventually that will help us see how that money is being spent. She's looking forward to working with Extein. Wright says that this is the plan during the summer to get into contact with contract programs. She would like to invite them to the Government Affairs Committee meeting to come present what the funds being allocated to them are being used for. This would make it more of a partnership. She believes it will add value to show where the money is going and hold people accountable. McAllister-Knutson said

these budget cuts are lower than the state-side and she commends the Associated Students for not cutting back more from students.

- IX. ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS** – Alvarez said yesterday CSSA had a special meeting where they agreed to oppose CA SB11. Rubinoff explained this is what he talked about last meeting, referring to councilors receiving benefits. They are currently being contracted out. Alvarez said they have passed to support opposing CA SB11. The board of trustees was going to be in support, but after CSSA President Malhotra's report they have vowed to oppose CA SB11 alongside the CSU Academic Senate.
- X. STAFF REPORTS** – Wright said we're in election season. Meeting the Candidates was successful. Close to 500 people came through and that's a win. Gave candidates exposure to the student body. Quiz the Candidates is upcoming, March 29th from 4-6 p.m. in BMU 203, where you can ask them anything you like. 4/4 is Election Day Extravaganza on Glenn and Trinity Lawn. Student organizations are welcome to participate. She's impressed with the candidates that are running and looks forward to students voicing their opinions. Any questions about elections come to Wright. McAllister-Knutson said Choose Chico is this Saturday. A ton of our student orgs will be there and a lot of students in the past has come to a university because of other students they've met. If you would like to get involved please ask. We are hoping for good weather. This week is UnDocuweek and they're being sponsored by SOEAF for these events. Friday the 24th is the Dreamer Ally Peer Training so students can learn how to support dreamers at the university.
- XI. CHAIR REPORT** – Tsao letting everyone know that Community Legal Information Clinic and Student Transition and Retention Center are to attend next Government Affairs Committee meeting to share their feedback.
- XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Alvarez said happy Wednesday.
- XIII. PUBLIC OPINION** – Wright allowed all those in the gallery to introduce themselves.
- XII. ADJOURNMENT** – The Chair, Tsao, adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.